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Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to more clearly and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as their invention. No new matter is believed to be added by the present amendment.

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-8 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Boyer (US Pat. No. 5410546).

Applicants thank the examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview with applicants' representative, Paul Kiel, on November 28, 2006, clarifying the interpretation of the Boyer reference with respect to the pending claims.

Applicants submit that for the reasons discussed below, and in applicants' previous responses, Boyer fails to disclose each and every limitation of claims 1-3 and 5-8, and as such, these claims are not anticipated by Boyer.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

> receiving data transmitted in bus packets having a variable length, each bus packet having a header and a payload data field, the payload data field being divided into **a number of data blocks having a defined length**, a combination of **a defined number n of data blocks forming a data source packet** of fixed length, section-by-section transmission of the data source packet within the framework of data blocks being permitted; and
> **carrying out a modulo-n counting of the data blocks in order to determine the data source packet boundaries**, and in that the beginning of a new data source packet is signaled to a memory management device at the beginning of the next counting interval. (emphasis added)

Claim 5 recites similar features in apparatus form. Applicants submit that nowhere does Boyer disclose or suggest at least the above-emphasized limitations of claim 1.

First, in the exemplary embodiment, the "number of data blocks having a defined length" is shown, for example, on Figure 1, see data blocks 12-15. That is, all of the data blocks have **the** defined length.

Second, a defined number of data blocks form a data source packet. For example, 8 data blocks form a data source packet (page 6, lines 13-14). In the exemplary embodiment shown in fig. 1, data blocks 12-15 of the first bus packet

and data blocks 12-15 of the second bus packet form source packet SP0, while, data blocks 17-20 of the second bus packet and data blocks 12-15 of the third bus packet from source packet SP1, and so forth.

Third, a modulo-n counting step is performed to determine the data source packet boundaries. Fig. 1 shows four bus packets carrying three source packets SP0-SP2, each source packet having 8 data blocks.

Applicants submit that nowhere does Boyer disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned limitations of the cited claims.

It is applicants' understanding that the examiner believes packet 500 of Boyer corresponds to the recited bus packet, and that any one of the page buffers 1, 2, or 3, corresponds to the recited data blocks having a defined length.

Applicants respectfully submit that, assuming that packet 500 corresponds to the recited bus packet, the page buffers cannot correspond to the data blocks recited in claim 1.

First, Boyer does not say anything regarding packet 500 being comprised of data blocks having a defined length. Applicants have carefully reviewed Boyer and are unable to find anything in this regard.

Second, applicants submit that the page buffers cannot correspond to the recited data blocks having a defined length. As recited in the claims, the data blocks are **included** within the data payload portion of the bus packet. By contrast, if one were to interpret the page buffers as the data blocks, the situation is reversed and **bus packets are included within the page buffers**. Further, even if one considers the case shown in fig. 7, wherein a single bus packet encompasses three page buffers, the configuration still fails to disclose or suggest data blocks having a defined length since the length of the data blocks of the bus packet included each of the page buffers varies.

If one considers the entirety of the page buffers to comprise a single data block, Boyer still fails to meet the limitation of data blocks having a defined length because under such an interpretation the data blocks now includes data that are not part of, or included within, the bus packet. Clearly page buffers 1 and 3 of fig. 7 include portions that are not part of bus packet 500. This interpretation is at odds with the recitation that the payload data field of the bus packet is divided into a number n of data blocks having a defined length, and as such, the data blocks

only include data of the bus packet. In view of the above, applicants submit that the page buffers 1, 2, or 3 cannot correspond to the recited data blocks having a defined length.

Further, Boyer does not say anything about the data blocks forming a source packet of fixed length. If one were to consider the page buffers to the data blocks, these page buffers do not have any particular relationship to the data included in the bus packet. Boyer does not say anything regarding a defined number of page buffers forming a source packet of a fixed length, and carrying our a modulo-n counting of the data block to determine the source packet boundaries.

In view of the above, applicants submit that Boyer fails to disclose each and every limitation of claims 1 and 5, and the claims that depend therefrom.

Rejection of claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyer (US Pat. No. 5410546)

The Office Action alleges that the additional features recited in claim 4 relate to matters of design choice in implementing the system of Boyer. Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming arguendo that the recited feature of claim 4 relate to matters of design choice as applied to Boyer, that assertion fails to cure the defect of Boyer as applied to present claim 1, and thus, present claim 4, remains patentably distinguishable over Boyer.

Rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boyer (US Pat. No. 5410546) in view of Lo et al. (US Pat. No. 6324178)

Lo is cited as teaching the use of a data bus designed according to IEEE 1394, and the Office Action alleges that it would be obvious to combine the teachings of Boyer and Lo. However, applicants submit that even assuming arguendo that Boyer and Lo are combined in the manner suggested, the suggested combination still fails to cure the defect of Boyer as applied to present claim 5, and thus, present claim 9 remains patentably distinguishable over the combination of Boyer and Lo.

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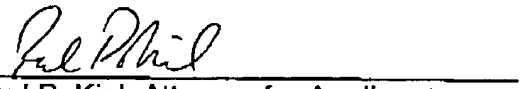
Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action. No fee is believed due in regard to the present amendment. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832. Should any questions arise regarding any of the above, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 609-734-6815.

Respectfully submitted,

Siegfried Schweidler et al.

By: 

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